

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 22nd 2008 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ali Imam, Reg. No. 58,755 on July 28th 2008.

On line 2 of claim 19, replace the term "variables" with the term "variable."

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant's amendment filed April 22nd 2008 has been entered and made of record.

4. Applicant has amended claims 17, 19, 22, 28, 29, 30, 33, 35 and 36.

Claims 1-16, 21 and 34 have been cancelled. New claim 37 has been added. Claims 17-20, 22-33 and 35-37 are now pending.

5. Applicant's remarks in view of the newly presented amendments have been fully considered and are found to be persuasive. The claims are found to be in condition for allowance and reasons for allowance are given below.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 17-20, 22-33 and 35-37 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to independent claims 17, 28, 29 and 37, Applicant's remarks (pages 8 and 9) explain the differences between the Osada reference and the claims as now recited. Osada discloses transforming image data to Hough space and using histograms and peaks in the histograms but does not explicitly disclose projecting and accumulated selected points from the histogram onto one of the axes of the Hough space. No other found prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests this technique.

With regard to independent claims 30, 35 and 36, applicant's remarks (pages 10 and 11) explain the differences between the Osada reference and the claims as now recited. Osada discloses transforming image data to Hough space and using histograms and peaks in the histograms but does not explicitly disclose combining those histograms for a same type of image feature to generate a combined histogram of said

images features. No other found prior art of record teaches or fairly suggests this specific type of histogram combination using Hough space transforms.

Independent claims 17, 28, 29, 30, 35, 36 and 37 are all allowed as well as all subsequent dependent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WESLEY TUCKER whose telephone number is (571)272-7427. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Wes Tucker/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Matthew C Bella/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
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